

Israeli soldier kills Palestinian

GAZA CITY, occupied Gaza Strip (AFP) — An Israeli soldier shot and killed a Palestinian at point blank range in the Nuseirat refugee camp Friday, Palestinian sources said. The soldier was trying to force Naseh Aich Rajab, 19, to climb into a jeep after hitting him, witnesses said. He shot the Palestinian in the stomach at point blank range, the sources said. Rajab was taken to hospital in Tel Aviv, where he died, according to the Palestinian sources. It is confirmed, he would be the 1,12th Palestinian killed by Israeli security forces or settlers since the start of the uprising in December 1987. In another incident, another resident of Nuseirat, Walid Tabaza, 26, was beaten to death by members of a Palestinian vigilante group who accused him of "indecent" sexual behaviour, according to Palestinian sources. The attack was claimed by the armed wing of the Popular Front for Liberation of Palestine.

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Arafat struggles with crises, dissent in top PLO meeting

Combined agency dispatches

TUNIS — Yasser Arafat, head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) for more than 20 turbulent years, tried Friday to beat back a challenge to his leadership and convince the movement that a peace pact with Israel is now within sight.

The turmoil within the PLO comes only days before the resumption of the Middle East peace talks in Washington and is linked to Mr. Arafat's support for a plan that would introduce Palestinian self-rule.

Mr. Arafat — and Israeli leaders — appear to favour a proposal to grant Palestinians autonomy in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho as a first step towards an overall Middle East peace settlement (see separate stories).

But PLO dissidents feel the group is making too many concessions to Israel, and they are also upset with Mr. Arafat's autocratic style and the deepening financial troubles within the movement.

Mr. Arafat, 64, and his circle are facing unprecedented criticism and there have been calls for Mr. Arafat to resign.

PLO officials said Mr. Arafat argued with his critics during a lengthy session of the PLO's ruling Executive Committee Thursday night, but failed to steer the body completely behind him.

PLO information chief Yasser Abed Rabbo said Friday's meeting was to discuss the recent resignations of two leading members of the decision-making body, which are symptoms of the deep financial and political crisis gripping the organisation.

And he welcomed a declaration by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres that his country was willing to allow Palestinian self-government in the Gaza Strip as a "step forward."

He said the first session of the emergency meeting, which took place Thursday night, discussed



Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee members (left to right) Mahmoud Abbas, Mahmood Darwish and Yasser Abed Rabbo

pose for the press Friday ahead of a second day of a top-level meeting in Tunis (AFP photo)

announced his withdrawal from the committee on Sunday, was in Beirut attending a summit of Arab participants in the U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace talks with Israel.

Tayseer Khaled, a representative of the Damascus-based Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) on the committee, called for the resignation of committee members who had been conducting negotiations with Israel.

He accused the negotiating team composed of officials close to Mr. Arafat, and led by committee member Mahmoud Abbas, of "abuse of power" and "incompetence," blaming them for "all the concessions made" to Israel.

"I will call for the team which directs the negotiations to resign," he told Reuters, adding that he also wanted the talks with Israel to be suspended.

Asked whether the resignation call included Mr. Arafat, Mr. Khaled added: "I mean all the team without exclusion ... I said the team and those responsible for the team."

He said he believed many of the Executive Committee shared his views and would take action if those dominating the PLO do not stop their damaging policy.

Palestinian sources said word of Mr. Khaled's comments coloured the start of the meeting, "you are not the Palestinian people to call for resignations," an indignant Arafat told him.

"Brothers, Tayseer Khaled want to blow up the meeting," another source quoted Mr. Arafat as saying. The sources said tension mounted as Mr. Arafat "reprimanded" Mr. Khaled.

Mr. Khaled left the meeting. He told Reuters he maintained his call for resignations but said it did not include Mr. Arafat. He later returned to the meeting which eventually adjourned until later Friday.

Tunis talks unlikely to resolve long-running conflicts in PLO

Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

Dozens of questions remain unanswered even as that meeting takes place between PLO Executive Committee members and Chairman Arafat and his kitchen cabinet, the officials said.

"There are three issues at hand in Tunis at this moment," said Ahmad Al Jamal, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) spokesman in Amman. "The accord, what the accord entails, who arranged it and what guarantees the Israelis have for us on this, besides the questions that surround our financial crisis."

The majority of the PLO Executive Committee, the highest decision-making body in the PLO, were neither consulted nor informed about what appears to be a back-door PLO-Israeli dialogue. Nor where they put in the Executive Committee told the Jordanian

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At least 10 of 18 members of the PLO Executive Committee as well as Palestinian political party leaders and peace negotiators remain essentially in the dark about details of a PLO-Israeli dialogue at "senior levels," a provisional accord on a preliminary Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho and the PLO's financial crisis, the officials said.

"This will be the first step towards independence if it is realised," said Saleh Raafat, a long-time Palestine Central Council (PCC) member and Palestinian Democratic Federation Party (PDFF) representative in Jordan.

"Direct contacts between senior PLO and Israeli officials" had resulted in the following terms of agreement, according to Mr. Raafat:

"A total Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho;

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An empowerment for the PLO to rule the two Israeli-occupied areas of the occupied territories; — Recognition of the territorial unity of the two areas; — A joint declaration of principles that would clarify the definition and objectives of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338;

— A declaration that the "Gaza-Jericho first" withdrawal is the first in a series of phases that would eventually lead to full Israeli withdrawal from the Palestinian lands the Jewish state occupied during the 1967 war;

— An Israeli agreement to the participation, both as voters and candidates, of East Jerusalem Palestinians in legislative elections to be held in the interim stage between full Israeli withdrawal and the Palestinian takeover in the occupied territories.

The Israeli foreign minister

(Continued on page 10)

have been the Israeli party to have participated in the accord, made it clear that the Israeli version of the accord differed from the Palestinian one.

For the first time I can see a plan, which in principle, is acceptable to the two parties," Mr. Peres told Cable News Network (CNN) Thursday.

Mr. Peres said that "self-government ... not the establishment of another state," in Gaza and "maybe Jericho" would be discussed at the next round of talks between Palestinians and Israelis in Washington due to begin next Tuesday.

Asked if military withdrawal would be involved he said, "Yes, ... it will be more than a pilot plan, so to speak, about autonomy and the great advantage is that it could be done rather easily."

The Israeli foreign minister

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Suharto welcomes King's visit

JAKARTA (Petra) — President Suharto of Indonesia has welcomed a visit by His Majesty King Hussein to Indonesia, Labour Minister Khaled Al Ghzawi said Friday.

Mr. Ghzawi, who is now on an official visit to Indonesia heading a delegation, delivered a message from the King to President Suharto at the presidential palace.

He said he also conveyed to President Suharto greetings from King Hussein and the Jordanian government and people and was asked to convey greetings to King Hussein.

Discussion with the president covered cooperation in labour-related affairs, said the minister.

Mr. Ghzawi said he outlined Jordan's policies in controlling the labour market, vocational training programmes and other matters related to trade exchanges and joint ventures involving Indonesian and Jordanian firms.

King Hussein returned home Thursday from Oman after a three-day visit. He held talks with Sultan Qaboos Bin Said on Inter-Arab relations and means to achieve Arab solidarity.

King Hussein and Sultan Qaboos also discussed bilateral relations and regional and international issues.

Talks on the latest developments at the Arab and international forums, means of restoring Arab solidarity and crystallising a unified Arab stand towards all decisive common Arab issues.

The two sides also touched upon the latest developments in the Arab-Israeli peace talks and stressed the need for achieving a just, comprehensive and durable peace.

Upon departure from Oman, the King was seen off by Sultan Qaboos and senior Omani officials, in addition to the Jordanian ambassador to Oman.

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Agreement reported on 'general lines' of Gaza-Jericho option

Combined agency dispatches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Israeli and Palestinian officials said Friday they were near agreement on a plan for limited self-rule for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

One report said an agreement along "general lines" has already been signed, which would be an historic first in Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking.

Israel newspapers reported

Friday that Foreign Minister Shimon Peres secretly met top Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official to forge the Palestinian self-rule deal.

Former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of the right-wing Likud Party said Mr. Peres was rushing to give away land and demanded elections be called.

Senior Israeli officials sidestepped questions about the reports, appearing in four of the seven main dailies, that Mr. Peres met a senior PLO figure in Scandinavia last week.

Peres and high-ranking PLO officials said this week the two sides agreed on the Gaza-Jericho plan that would be presented at the 11th round of Middle East peace talks in Washington starting on Tuesday.

Other officials warned against expecting a breakthrough.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat supports the plan to grant Palestinians autonomy in Gaza and Jericho as a first step toward an overall peace settlement. Other Palestinian leaders maintain he is being too flexible toward Israel, and that the plan could postpone indefinitely their goal of achieving independent Palestinian statehood.

Israeli leaders support the plan. Some right-wingers object to any quick troop withdrawals from these areas.

"Today there is more agreement between us and the Palestinians as ever before," Mr. Peres

was quoted as telling the *Yediot Achronot* daily.

The Palestinians have reached the conclusion that they (should) adopt the plan to set up self-rule for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho first. This will allow a chance for a breakthrough at the coming round of peace talks in Washington," Mr. Peres added in the interview.

Nabil Shaar, Mr. Arafat's adviser, told the *Jerusalem Post* that Israel and the PLO were secretly negotiating the deal on Gaza and Jericho.

"I don't think we can pretend to have an agreement yet," said Dr. Shaar. "There are many questions that still have to be discussed," he told the *Post* in Cairo before leaving for PLO headquarters in Tunis.

He described the option as "a hybrid for making a small part of the (occupied) territories most like the final form."

"It will be a serious step showing that the Palestinians can keep their word, maintain proper security, proper development. That will encourage the Israelis to go on and apply the total peace formula in both its interim and final form."

Mr. Peres reiterated on Thursday that the government was prepared to pull troops out of the Gaza Strip and possibly Jericho. But he talked about autonomy or self-government, not the declaration of an independent state. Security would remain the responsibility of Israel.

A senior Israeli official told the *Post*: "We have certainly not reached any agreement in our contacts with the PLO, but there is a kernel of understanding between us."

"We are talking about granting the Palestinians far-reaching autonomy in Gaza and Jericho, not only under certain conditions. The Palestinians would enjoy broader powers in those two areas than they would in the rest," of the territories.

"The Islamic Action Front, despite its opposition to the temporary election law, can only participate in the elections and work towards more shura, democracy and freedom. The party will continue to favour public interest

Arabs begin coordination talks

Combined agency dispatches

BEIRUT (AP) — Arab states and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) opened a two-day conference Friday to chart a united strategy when they face off with Israeli negotiators next week in a new round of Middle East peace talks.

The 11th round of the U.S.-sponsored talks, set for Tuesday in Washington, comes amid signals that the Israelis and the Palestinians are moving toward an agreement for Palestinian self-rule (see separate story).

U.S. State Department Spokesman Michael McCurry said that preparations continue "vigorously" for the Aug. 31 peace talks.

"Our goal for this next session" would be to see the parties "fully engaged on some of (the) tough issues" and working toward some form of declaration, he said, adding that things are now set for "some significant progress," he said.

"We haven't received formal

Chinese, Saudis try to fix ship's search

DAMMAM, Saudi Arabia (R) — Chinese and Saudi Arabian officials tried to agree Friday when and how to inspect a Chinese ship accused of carrying banned chemical weapons materials for Iran. The Yinhe, shadowed by U.S. warships since it entered the region on Aug. 3, docked at Dammam Thursday for inspection by Saudi and Chinese officials. Chinese diplomats said a Foreign Ministry delegation that arrived in Dammam on Thursday was still discussing with Saudi authorities a possible date for the inspection. "There is still no decision on when the inspection will be. It is a complicated inspection," one diplomatic said. He said American experts might join the inspection as technical advisers. Beijing had previously objected to any U.S. role. The U.S. Navy in the Gulf refused on Thursday to comment on regional press reports that a U.S. technical team would act as advisers to Saudi authorities inspecting the freighter. The Chinese delegation on Friday left their Dammam hotel to visit the vessel. "Our visit is to help raise the morale of the crew members. They are very tired."

Troops toting assault rifles and armor-piercing rockets blocked traffic in a 1.5-kilometre radius around the Bristol and sharpshooters were stationed on rooftops overlooking the site.

About 15 placard-waving Palestinians, mostly women, were allowed to demonstrate at the hotel's entrance. They demanded a resumption of PLO financial assistance to help the nearly 400,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

The protest ended when a policeman fired two shots in the air. Police pushed the women away from the hotel and blocked their path to the entrance with a line of vehicles.

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat agreed to meet two representatives of the protesters and missed the start of his meeting as a result of their discussions.

The foreign ministers of Syria, Jordan and Lebanon and the Foreign affairs chief of the PLO met Friday afternoon at Beirut's Bristol hotel amid tight security.

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IAF decision to take part in polls is pragmatic and realistic

By Nermene Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Thursday's overwhelming vote by the Islamic Action Front (IAF) to take part in the next parliamentary elections highlights the pragmatic approach that the Islamists adopt to the Jordanian political arena, but, above all, it shows their skill in handling the game of political survival and pursuing the goal of Islamising society peacefully and gradually.

Following the meeting of the front's 120-member Shura (consultative) council, in which 85 per cent of those who attended (101) decided not to boycott the Nov. 8 elections, the IAF issued a statement saying incentives "for participation outweigh (considerations for boycott) in view of the sensitive stage which the nation is passing through."

"... the front has a responsibility in consolidating the march of shura and democracy as a way to enter the race for the 80-member Lower House of Parliament without losing face with their political base or appear to be giving the regime a respite over the Middle East peace process."

"... the front has a responsibility to the temporary election law, has no choice but to take part in the elections with the aim being more shura, freedom and democracy."

An analyst, who applauded the IAF decision as a sign of "political maturity," said the front's statement failed to

Analysts believe that the

85% of Islamist front council vote in favour of participating in elections

AMMAN (J.T.) — In an emergency meeting Thursday night, the Islamic Action Front's (IAF) 120-member consultative council (Shura) voted in favour of participation in the Nov. 8 elections with 85 per cent support of the council.

The front, which led a campaign against the introduction of one-person, one-vote election law without ratification from the Lower House of Parliament, said its decision was taken after extensive consultations with its popular base in all the Kingdom's areas.

In a statement to the press at the end of the meeting, the head of the council, Abdul Majid Thneibat, said that incentives "for participation outweigh (considerations for boycott) in view of the sensitive stage which the nation is passing through."

"... the front has a responsibility in consolid

Hizbollah leader vows 'new rules' in S. Lebanon

BEIRUT (AP) — The leader of Iranian-backed Shiite Muslim guerrillas was quoted Friday as saying his fighters will not fire rockets into northern Israel if the Israelis do not bombard Muslim villages in South Lebanon.

"We're adhering to the new rules of the game ... that we ourselves have established," Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah said in an interview published by the leftist Al Safir daily four days before Arab-Israeli peace talks resume in Washington.

"We stopped firing Katyusha rockets into northern Israel when Israel stopped shelling population centres," he said.

He called this a "balance of terror" based on a mutual cessation of targeting civilian areas on both sides of the flashpoint border, the only active Arab-Israeli warfront.

"Our goal is not to blast civilian targets with Katyushas. But if our civilian population centres are shelled, then Israel's settlements in northern Palestine are not going to be exempt from retaliation," he warned.

Sheikh Nasrallah, who recently returned from talks with Iranian leaders in Tehran, appeared to be taking an unexpectedly milder line than usual on the confrontation with Israel in S. Lebanon.

He did not elaborate. But he said resistance operations against the Israeli-occupied zone were not linked to the 21-month-old, U.S.-sponsored peace process in which the Palestinians reportedly

are near reaching an interim agreement with the Jewish state.

Earlier rounds of talks in Washington have been marked by sharp escalations of violence in south Lebanon and in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Although Sheikh Nasrallah spoke of "new rules" in the confrontation with Israel, they appeared similar to a tacit understanding between Hizbollah and the Jewish state that has been observed for some time.

Under that understanding, the Israelis would limit retaliation to major attacks on the "security zone," but would unleash severe reprisals, including attacks on towns and villages in South Lebanon, if settlements in northern Galilee were rocketed.

Israeli warplanes Thursday raided Hizbollah targets after guerrillas attacked positions inside the "security zone" manned by the South Lebanon Army (SLA), a Lebanese militia armed and funded by Israel.

That kept tension high in the turbulent region in advance of the 11th round of peace talks scheduled to begin next Tuesday in Washington.

The foreign ministers of Syria, Jordan and Lebanon and the Palestine Liberation Organisation political department chief gathered in Beirut Friday to map out their strategy for the 11th round of peace negotiations.

Iran, and Arab groups like Hizbollah, oppose the peace talks.

Sheikh Nasrallah insisted that Hizbollah's operations "are not seasonal or political. It's a daily action that our brothers have been waging since 1985."

That was when Israel withdrew the bulk of its army which invaded Lebanon in June 1982 to crush Palestinian guerrillas.

The Israelis continue to occupy the 1,100-square-kilometre "security zone."

Sheikh Nasrallah said that "new rules" seem to have held over the last three weeks of hostilities following a one-week Israeli air, sea and artillery offensive against Hizbollah July 25-31 after seven soldiers were slain in guerrilla attacks.

"This has been demonstrated in the way the Israelis reacted to the St. Stephen operation," Sheikh Nasrallah said.

Nine Israeli soldiers were killed in a Hizbollah attack near the village of Shihieh inside the Israeli-occupied zone Aug. 19. It was the highest single-day death toll the Israelis have suffered in South Lebanon since 1983.

Israeli fighter-bombers blasted Hizbollah training and supply bases in east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, killing two guerrillas. But civilian targets were not hit.

Those air strikes were the first since a U.S.-brokered ceasefire halted the Israeli blitz in July in which nearly 150 people, mostly Lebanese civilians, were killed, nearly 500 wounded and a half-million people driven from their homes.

DUBAI (Agencies) — U.S. President Bill Clinton welcomed the formation of Saudi Arabia's consultative council designed to give citizens a say in the oil-rich kingdom's affairs, the Saudi Press Agency reported Thursday night.

"We have welcomed the Shura council as an important step to widen popular participation in the government, which conforms with your history and traditions," the agency quoted Mr. Clinton as saying in a message to King Fahd.

The Saudi monarch last week appointed members of the 60-man Shura council, the first ever in the kingdom's 61-year history, as part of political reforms promised after the 1991 Gulf war.

Diplomats said on Wednesday they expected that King Fahd would move quickly to implement further reforms including the appointment of provincial consultative councils to work alongside the national Shura council.

King Fahd sent a message to Mr. Clinton thanking him for welcoming the Shura council, "which was formed in accordance with our Islamic religion and our ancient traditions and values," the agency said.

It also quoted the Saudi newspaper Okaz on Friday as calling on Saudi Arabia's citizens to actively correspond with the new council's members and "not to sit idly by in an indifference that does not live up to the standard of this historic achievement."

The Washington Times reports: The International Committee for Human Rights in the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula has welcomed the consultative assembly and expressed hope that "further positive measures ... would enable Saudi Arabia to keep pace with the democratic changes that have swept various parts of the world in the aftermath of the cold war."

All experts point to the crucial importance of Saudi Arabia to the West, with its oil wealth estimated at 257 billion barrels, or one-fourth of the world's known petroleum reserves. Saudi Arabia is also a huge market for Western goods, high technology and expertise.

The kingdom has jealously guarded its political and economic prerogatives, often baffling experts and intelligence specialists who seem to be unable to forecast the scenario for succession to the Saudi throne.

News from Saudi Arabia is generally sketchy, largely due to an effective ban on foreign journalists ordered by King Fahd.

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SILVER ANNIVERSARY: Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath today (Saturday) celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary. While dedicating their lives to serving the Kingdom, they have also devoted much attention to humanitarian issues and development projects and to the bringing up of their four children. Their Royal Highnesses Prince Rashed and Princesses Rambah, Sumayyah and Badiyah.



Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein Friday marches with about 5,000 anti-smoking activists (Petra photo)

5,000 march against smoking

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein Friday joined about 5,000 marchers in an anti-smoking march organised by the Jordanian Anti-Smoking Society (JASS), in cooperation with the Royal Jordanian and the Haya Arts Centre.

The march started at 9:00 a.m. from the Haya Arts Centre and ended at the Orthodox Club in Abdoun, where participants enjoyed performances staged by the RJ Folklore Troupe and the Haya Arts Centre Band.

Also taking part in the march was Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas.

The march was spurred by Princess Haya, who called for a clean and smoke free environment in Jordan.

Its aim is to raise public awareness of the danger of the nicotine habit, including the hazards of smoke to non-smokers.



COLCULFUL CIRCASSIAN CULTURAL NIGHT: Deputising for Her Majesty Queen Noor, Their Royal Highnesses Princess Aishah Bint Al Hussein and Princess Ramah Abdullah Thursday night inaugurated Al Jeed Al Jadeed Festival for Culture and Arts in Amman. The week-long festival is held to mark the 41st anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the throne. Established in 1950, the club aims at highlighting the culture and traditions of Circassians living in Jordan through various social, cultural and artistic activities. At the festival, the Princesses inaugurated an exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artists. Following, they attended a dance performance by Al Jeed Al Jadeed Folklore Troupe, a group of 160 young men and women who had been rehearsing intensely for 3 months in preparation for the festival. The show, entitled "The Eternal Torch," depicts picturesque images of Circassian social and cultural life. The folklore troupe has participated in several national events, such as the Jerash Festival, as well as in international events.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Shaker Al Shadi at Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by 25 Jordanian artists at the Housing Bank Complex exhibition hall.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Bishara Najjar at Eshbelia Art Gallery, Amra Shopping Centre. The paintings depict Jordanian-Palestinian heritage, Jordanian antiquities, Arab Jerusalem, rural life and

natural scenery.

- ★ Opening of new art gallery, "Darat Al Funun," of the Abdul Majed Shoman Foundation. Programme includes the permanent exhibition and the "Chair" exhibition in Jabal Luweibdeh.

SHOWS

- ★ Play entitled "Crescent Night" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.
- ★ "The Eternal Torch," a variety of Circassian dances performances by Al-Jeed Al-Jadeed Club at the club's premises in the Seventh Circle. Painting and handicrafts exhibition on sidelines.

Majali to meet with business community

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Tuesday will meet with the heads of chambers of commerce, leading businesspersons and representatives of the economic sector in Jordan.

Discussion will focus on economic and administrative issues, means of stimulating the private sector's businesses, the general economic developments in the Kingdom and the removal of barriers that continue to hinder progress.

The announcement, by the Federation of Chambers of Commerce, said that the meeting with the prime minister was part of ongoing contacts between the private sector and various government officials responsible for the national economy, to bolster bilateral cooperation in economic fields.

Meanwhile, Dr. Majali was quoted as saying that the government was considering raising the salaries of civil servants and offering incentives for creative employees.

The prime minister was speaking during a visit Thursday to the Amman Municipality where he met with Mayor Mamdouh Al Abbadi and senior officials to



Abdul Salam Al Majali discuss Municipal Council problems

authorities enabling him to deal directly with local matters without referring to the central government.

Among the new laws and regulations that are to accompany these reforms, Dr. Majali said, will be rules to provide incentives for creative employees and make those who neglect their duty accountable.

Urging the municipality to cooperate closely with the government ministries, the prime minister said it should strive to expand the green areas within the Amman region and at the same time protect the agricultural lands.

He said that unused lands should be planted with forest trees to become natural breathing spaces for Amman's citizens and contribute towards safeguarding the environment.

In reviewing the municipality's activities, the mayor said, the municipal council was dealing with 20 different zones in the Amman region which is 520

kilometres in area.

Dr. Abbadi said the municipality's 7,430 workers were exerting their full efforts to provide municipal services in the Amman re-

gion.

According to the mayor, the municipality needs JD58 million to meet its commitments, but it is receiving only a JD45 million budget annually.

He said the balance is covered from the savings of earlier years.

The prime minister Thursday also visited the Ministry of Water and Irrigation where he was briefed on related projects by Minister Bassam Kassis.

Various difficulties facing the ministry and the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) in connection with water supplies were discussed.

Urging officials to act faithfully and exert efforts in providing public services, the prime minister said that one has to realize that selfishness can in no way solve problems.

Dr. Majali reaffirmed the need for decentralizing government business, noting that such measures would save effort and time for citizens and government departments alike.

Noing that the government would not be lenient with those encroaching on state rights, water supplies, installations, and other facilities and services, the prime

minister said the water ministry should pinpoint faulty areas and any waste of funds and water resources before appropriate measures can be taken to deal with them.

The Premier also called on all ministries, government departments and public institutions to supply the Jordan Economic and Social Organisation for Redred Servicemen (JESORS) with detailed information about all public vehicles, and the costs involved in repairing them, as well as their maintenance records over the past three years.

In a communiqué issued to all government departments and public institutions, Dr. Majali urged cooperation with JESORS to enable the organisation to prepare studies for a project to repair all government-owned vehicles at maintenance workshops to be set up by JESORS.

The step is aimed at saving public funds by avoiding unnecessary expenses, recruiting a significant number of technicians at these workshops and training a large number of Jordanians as mechanics at a special maintenance institute to be set up for this purpose.

Political enlightenment drive targets women

By Jennifer Hamarneh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Although they admit that the one-person, one-vote system will significantly lessen the chances of a woman making it to Parliament this year, officials of the Business and Professional Women's Club (BPWC) in Amman are undeterred in their goal to continue a political enlightenment campaign targeted at Jordan's female electorate.

Ms. Nasser explained that the meetings and the literature aim to enhance the role of women in politics.

"We strive to present the case of women and for women in the right light," she said, adding that at these meetings focus is at raising the awareness of the advantages of women taking part in the law-making process.

The printed guidelines on successful electioneering focus mainly on how the candidate should cultivate her constituency.

Pointers include what to do at a political meeting.

For example, the brochure states that the candidate should be ahead of time, state her objectives and principles in 15 minutes then conduct a question and answer session in which she should strive to maintain a friendly, sincere debate.

The candidate is advised to listen as well as speak, and if she does not know the answer to a question, she should say so and later find the answer as soon as possible. She is counselled to close the session on friendly terms, even if there is disagreement.

Officials at the BPWC believe that even if women candidates are unsuccessful this year, the experience gained will benefit them in their next political efforts and the next elections.

"We are urging women to

levant literature. They have published pamphlets and brochures that outline the advantages of having women representatives in the Lower House and in the political arena and points to be considered by women candidates in running a successful campaign.

Ms. Nasser explained that the meetings and the literature aim to enhance the role of women in politics.

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"We are urging women to



Women from Madaba gather at the local Princess dialogue organised by the Business and Professional Women's Club on the importance of voting

take part in the elections as voters and candidates because we believe that this experience will help enhance their role in political life and form the foundation for becoming political leaders in the future," President of BPWC Hind Al Jaber told the Jordan Times.

The club, which was established in 1976 as a voluntary organisation, plans to air short public service announcements on television and radio to encourage women to vote.

In describing how these announcements will be designed, BPWC General Director Butheina Jardaneh told the Jordan Times that at earlier meetings, many women indicated that their husbands or other male relatives would strongly influence, if not dic-

tate, their vote. For the illiterate woman, Mrs. Jardaneh said, her spouse or male relatives might write the name of the candidate on the woman's hand before she goes to the polls.

Mr. Jardaneh explained that rather than persuading them to ignore their husband's demand, they would suggest to these women that they try to attend campaign meetings and rallies in order to form an objective opinion of candidates.

"Our goal is not to create family conflicts, but to encourage quiet dialogue within the context of the culture to arrive at a more progressive, democratic approach to the electoral process, particularly where it

make a difference.

During a BPWC political enlightenment meeting in Hama, in southern Jordan, the team was astonished and pleased to discover the women there were able to articulate what one-person, one-vote meant to them, Ms. Nasser recalled.

"Before, they said, with three votes, a woman could vote for the husband's choice, but also cast her own vote for the candidate of her choice.

After Nov. 8, the BPWC will not cease its drive, said Ms. Nasser. It will carry it into the future.

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"Before, they said, with three votes, a woman could vote for the husband's choice, but also cast her own vote for the candidate of her choice.

With one-person, one-vote, they felt that the liberty would be lost," said Ms. Nasser. This is where BPWC believes it can make a difference.

JBA to honour senior lawyers

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Bar Association (JBA) Friday announced plans for a general three-day celebration to honour senior lawyers.

On Sept. 16, the first day of the ceremony, which also coincides with the anniversary of the establishment of the association, the presidents of the successive association councils and heads of courts will be honoured.

Their strategy is to hold meetings again throughout the country, hoping to cover most of the area and distribute re-

quests concerning legal matters concerning company laws and lectures by law professors of Jordanian and other Arab universities, said Dr. Nasser.

The conference, he said, is aimed at contributing to the development of the legal process and helping lawyers to exchange information and put forth proposals to modernize Jordanian laws.

Nearly 3,000 lawyers from Jordan and the Arab World are expected to attend the ceremonies, said Kamal Nasser, the JBA president.

The ceremonies will include an open general meeting during which related topics will be tackled.

Along with the ceremonies there will be a general conference

International conference to address primary materials used in industry

AMMAN (Petra) — The University of Jordan and the Jordanian Engineers Association (JEA) Friday announced plans to hold an international conference in Amman next month to discuss primary materials used in industry.

The announcement said that the four-day conference, to open on Sept. 6, will be attended by at least 150 engineers from Jordan and other countries.

The conference will review 33 working papers dealing with various materials used in the construction industry, sources of primary materials, prospects for

utilising their resources in Jordan, the transfer of technology in industry, alternative materials used in industries and other topics.

Other working papers will address the strategies of scientific research in the technology of primary goods, quality control, specifications and standards and training cadres to deal with these materials, said the announcement which noted that the meetings will be held at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman.

It said that the speakers will focus attention on the need to opt

Shipping line takes delivery of new vessel

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan National Shipping Lines (JNSL) announced Friday that it had taken delivery of a 15,000 tonne vessel to help increase the export of phosphate and other materials to India and Asian nations.

JNSL Director General Yasser Tel said the new vessel, which cost \$4.22 million, and is to be named "Al Hassa" will join two others also used to transport phosphate and other goods between Jordan and European and Asian destinations.

The company hopes to get a \$10 million loan by the end of the year to buy a multi-purpose ship to operate between Aqaba and northern Europe. Mr. Tel said.

Jordan, Japan agree to boost food production

special attention to food production was given to northern, central and southern highlands and the Jordan Valley.

It stressed the need for increasing automated agricultural equipment, fertilisers and pesticides as needed inputs for such increases.

At the start of the meetings on Aug. 17, Minister of Agriculture Marwan Kamal noted that lack of sufficient agricultural equipment was among the main reasons for the low rate of cereal production in Jordan.

Some of the machinery and equipment needed include harvesters to reap lentils and chick peas, a process which is still being done manually.

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Sanctions hurt all

ANKARA has every right to ask the U.N. Security Council to review trade sanctions against Iraq. "The embargo has not achieved its objective," asserted a Turkish adviser to Tansu Ciller, the Turkish prime minister, Tuesday, adding the sanctions have "hurt the Iraqi people." This Turkish assessment measures up well to the after-effects of the three-year-old international sanctions against Iraq and reflects accurately the view shared by many other countries in the world.

True Turkey has sustained substantial losses as a result of the sanctions in the aftermath of the Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait in 1990 especially due to the closure of the 980-kilometre pipeline that connects Kirkuk oilfields with a Turkish terminal on the Mediterranean coast. But the reasons for Turkey to speak out now beyond its humanitarian concern for Iraq to touch upon the true objectives of the embargo.

The role of Iraq in the Gulf region remains to be critical as far as the establishment of balance of power in the area is concerned. Iran is increasingly flexing its muscles everywhere in the Gulf region and unless there is such a balance, the stability and security of the states of the area would continue to be jeopardised and undermined.

The international community is invited to look beyond the issue of "Saddam in power" and think more in terms of the indispensable role that that important Arab country can perform in the future of the Middle East. Staying the present course vis-a-vis Iraq has become self-defeating. Turkey and other countries are therefore speaking up now against the current bankrupt U.N. policy towards the Arab Gulf state.

Jordan is also severely affected by the perpetuation of the sanctions against Iraq. Free international shipping to Aqaba is constantly being interfered with raising in the process freight charges to Jordan via the port by up to 40 per cent. Considerable percentage of Jordanian industrial production was marketed in Iraq till the onset of the Gulf crisis. Now Jordanian industries have been effectively denied this indispensable market. What adds insult to injury is the continued closure of the Gulf markets for Jordanian trade and commerce. Other countries are also hurt by this short-sighted policy.

Presumably this and other related issues are the subject of bilateral talks between Amman, Ankara and other states. Other interested governments are expected to pick up where the Turkish government has left off. Still the key to this issue remains in the hands of Washington. The Clinton administration has yet to develop a fresh start in that direction. With more states joining the chorus of voices calling for a review of the present U.N. course, the U.S. should be expected to show more understanding of the new will of the international community and apply a more meaningful response.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

SAWT AL SHAAB daily focused attention on the outcome of the Palestinian-Jordanian talks and coordination of stands, noting that the visit to Jordan by Palestine President Yasser Arafat was yet another step forward. The last meeting between Mr. Arafat and King Hussein resulted in the formation of six joint committees to coordinate matter between the two sides in economic, border and many other matters, said the daily. These committees are now being given momentum and their work is being boosted for the best interest of the two peoples, continued the daily. We demand that coordination be held at the highest possible level and unity of stand be achieved in all matters especially those affecting the future relationship after the end of the Israeli occupation, said the paper. Furthermore, said the paper, the Arab countries involved in the peace process should unify their stand at the Friday meeting in Beirut, prior to resuming talks with Israel at the end of this month, in order to maintain the solid Arab stand and back the Palestinians in their endeavours to regain freedom.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i, Arabic daily bitterly criticised a statement by Marwan Daudin, head of the Jordanian side to the Jordanian-Palestinian Economic Committee, for declaring that steps are being taken to facilitate trade between the West Bank under autonomy rule and Jordan. Israel would definitely oppose any form of autonomy rule for the Palestinians if it were not linked to the Israeli economy and therefore any Jordanian-Palestinian trade would mean Jordanian-Israeli trade, said Fahd Al Fanek. Vowing against this as a dangerous one to the Jordanian industry in particular, Fanek does not recommend such a practice said the writer. He warned that such a step would cause the total collapse of the Jordanian industry because the Kingdom would be flooded with Israeli-made goods, not because they are cheaper or better quality, but because the Israeli industry is subsidised by at least \$6 billion annually.

Jordanian Perspective

By Dr. Musa Kellani

IAF decision — voice of reason and logic

All those who support the democratisation process of Jordan can have a sigh of relief now that the Islamic Action Front (IAF) has decided to participate in the general elections. Not that there was any real doubt that the front, the political arm of the Muslim Brotherhood, or any other political party would have boycotted the Nov. 8 polls, but, the formal IAF decision means not only Islamist participation in the elections but also pulls the rug from under the feet of other groups which might have contemplated a boycott.

Now that the threat of a boycott has been removed, it is interesting to look at what went behind the scenes at the IAF headquarters in Abdali and in the homes of prominent Brotherhood activists in the past few days leading to Thursday's decision and whether the group has anything up its sleeve.

For one thing, the IAF decision establishes that the moderates in the group prevailed over the hardliners. But the overriding factor in the equation is the admirable discipline in the ranks of the Brotherhood as evident in the admission of hardliners that they had no choice but to go along with the decision of the political leadership to participate in the elections despite their reservations.

Of course, now the battle within the IAF ranks will be for candidates. No doubt, the hardliners will be pressing for a higher level of representation in the final list of candidates. Their arguments will be two-pronged: That they are going along with the decision to take part in the elections and therefore should be rewarded and that a message should be sent to the political scene by ensuring a strong non-moderate Islamist voice in Parliament despite the one-person, one-vote formula which they consider as targeting them.

Numerous other factors will come into play in drawing up the final list of candidates, but the net outcome could very well be a higher proportion of Islamist hardliners sitting under the Brotherhood banner in the domed Parliament than the Brotherhood bloc in the 11th Parliament.

In practical terms, it means a none-too-soft response to government moves and firewalls on the Parliament floor. The hardline camp may not be too prone to avoiding polemics and holding any punches over every issue that they think the government favours. Quite simply, it will be a question of the hardliners opposing everything the government proposes simply because the government proposed it.

Indeed, heated debates in Parliament are an essential part of a lively democratic life; let us hope that lines will be drawn when it comes to issues that are of serious impact on our lives and that the hardliners will see the wisdom in endorsing moves that serve the society.

Anxiety to avoid a political confrontation with the regime and be deprived of a role in mainstream politics of the country by

staying away from the polls indeed played a key role in shaping the IAF decision to go to the elections.

I am one of those who believe that in the Nov. 8 elections the Brotherhood will retain its power base in the Lower House of Parliament — give or take a couple of seats from the 23-strong bloc in the 11th legislature — despite the electoral change to a one-person, one-vote system. The reasoning is that the Brotherhood has a clearly defined set of priorities, it is the most disciplined group in the country, its members believe in what they are doing and its ideology, political Islam, is not at all alien to the Jordanian society.

The frustration over the unfavourable climate of the Middle East peace process and the pressure that the Palestinians find themselves under to make concessions after concessions are elements that the Brotherhood will translate into ballots in its favour on Nov. 8. By the same token, the obvious inability of the Arabs and Muslims to do anything to fight what many see as western hegemony — American decisions and strategies to be more precise — will be another of its cards, particularly given the suffering of the Iraqi people and the impunity with which Washington and allies adopt and implement decisions against Iraq and Libya.

Leftist groups could also lay claim to representing the tug-of-war against the West, but they lack the religious aura which gives better legitimacy to the Brotherhood. Furthermore, the argument that Islam has replaced the former Soviet Union as the West's enemy will be in favour of Brotherhood. The indictment of Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman and several Muslims in the New York World Trade Centre bombing and other alleged conspiracies will, explicitly and implicitly, be turned into axes by the Brotherhood.

Notwithstanding the fear of many in the electorate over some of the Islamic law-oriented objectives of the Brotherhood, the fact remains that the IAF decision to participate in the elections is a voice of reason and logic and falls in line with the "domesticated" image that the group has been presenting for many years.

The hardliners in the group might feel betrayed by the electoral change despite their objections, given that their allegiance to the Hashemite throne regardless of all considerations and political differences remained rocksteady throughout the years.

But it will be a timely reminder to them that a one-person, one-vote system was long overdue. They do have a strong point that such a formula should not have come into its own and that restructuring of electoral districts towards parliamentary representation proportionate to definite regions and areas, is needed.

Then, such changes are also in the making. And this time, it will be the deputies who made it to Parliament under the one-person, one-vote formula who will be debating it. Let us see how they will view such changes that might affect their reelection chances.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Jordanian-Palestinian coordination at talks is vital for the highest national interests

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

Jordanian-Palestinian coordination, the crisis within the PLO, preparations for the 12th round of Arab-Israeli peace talks and a host of domestic issues were the subjects tackled by the local press in the past week.

Lauding the efforts of the Jordanian-Palestinian committee set up to discuss full cooperation and coordination between the two peoples on either of the River Jordan, a columnist in Al Ra'i said that these committees are faced with a huge task in the course of safeguarding the highest national interests.

It is true that coordination concerning education, health, travel documents and social affairs, among other things, was continuous between the two sides even before the formation of the committees, but now the two sides are taking a step further towards more realistic coordination, thus paving the ground for the nature of the future relationship between the two peoples, said Sultan Al Hattah.

The writer said that although political, social and economic matters are to be streamlined in the committees talks, their joint endeavours to confront the Israeli measures and positions assume priority over others as the two sides are being challenged with the presence of occupation.

Sawt Al Shaab daily described a visit to Jordan by President Yasser Arafat as being one more step towards full integration between Jordan and the Palestinian lands, the paper said.

Thanks to King Hussein and President Arafat, we now have specialised joint committees to take sound steps towards coordination at all levels, leading to full integration.

A columnist in Al Ra'i said that the Jordanian-Palestinian joint committees should realise that the final word is that of Israel vis-a-vis the future of the occupied Arab lands and that their talks over coordination should remain hypothetical until occupation has ended.

Tareq Masarweh said that it is premature for the two sides to enter into discussions concerning the commercial exchange between the East and the West Banks and the opening of Jordanian banks in the occupied territories.

He said that the two sides have to wait until the Palestinians have indeed regained their freedom and are able to control their own destiny, otherwise such economic dealings would be taking place between Israel and Jordan in

an indirect manner. — Arafa Hijazi, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab, said that the PLO's financial crisis is partly to blame on the PLO officials and representatives in various countries.

The writer said that PLO representatives in European countries have been lavishly spending and squandering PLO funds and rumours have it that the former PLO representative in Paris has accumulated a vast wealth before emigrating to Canada following his acquisition of French citizenship.

One should not place all the blame on the Gulf states or Libya for failing to come to the help of the PLO, said the writer, as senior PLO officials should take the blame for the present crisis.

A columnist in Al Dastour defended the PLO position, noting that the financial crisis facing the organisation was a result of the Arab countries' failure to come to the help of the Palestinians.

Mohammad Kawash charged that the Arab states or Libya for failing to come to the help of the PLO, said the writer, as senior PLO officials should take the blame for the present crisis.

The writer cast a pessimistic view on the ongoing negotiations and said that Washington, finding itself unable to keep its promise to play the role of active partner, could resort to shuttle diplomacy to keep the contacts going, but very little is expected from the Palestinians.

Mohammad Kawash expected the peace talks to take at least 13 rounds, like the Arab television series with a dramatic end.

The columnist, who writes for Al Dastour, said that we might witness the declaration of a Palestine government in parts of the occupied land but without Jerusalem at the end of the coming two sessions.

The writer also criticised those PLO officials who are now abandoning the organisation, at a time when it is faced with having to make crucial decisions.

Al Ra'i Arabic daily described King Hussein's visit to Oman as part of the scenario which aims at imposing a U.S.-Israeli peace formula on the Arab countries and the Palestinians.

We are delighted to see King Hussein and Sultan Qaboos taking the first step towards ending Arab differences and reestablishing collective action on the part of Arab leaderships vis-a-vis common issues facing the Arab Nation, said the paper.

He also criticised those PLO officials who are now abandoning the organisation, at a time when it is faced with having to make crucial decisions.

The writer said that this step should not have been taken because many of those firms have Israeli capital and have special dealings with Israel.

The writer said that the peace talks do not mean that Israel and the Arabs have finalised a settlement acceptable to the future generations and therefore the boycott regulations should stand until peace has been achieved.

A columnist in Al Dastour described the public administration in Jordan as overly manned, with many of the civil servants having very little to do. Arguing his point, Abdallah Al Khathir said that in two of his visits to two government ministries for official business, he saw most of the employees either reading newspapers or having breakfast.

The writer said it was only

Muna Shuaib, a columnist in Al Dastour, stressed that the presence of opposition to the government was a manifestation of and a contribution to the country's democracy. It is natural for the political parties and the opposition to have different views from those of the government concerning the peace talks or the amendments to the Election Law and other matters. The writer said that it is undemocratic for the daily newspapers to support the view of one side against the others. Should the daily papers pursue this line they would lose credibility, she said.

The daily newspapers should be allowed to express the real views of the public, for or against developments, laws and policies of the government, said the writer.

U.S. Supreme Court has helped expand civil rights since 1963

By Paul Makhmud

based right to privacy.

— 1966, South Carolina versus Katzenbach: The court allowed the federal government to exercise increased power to combat racial discrimination in voting.

— 1966, Jones versus Mayer: The court prohibited racial discrimination in the sale of real estate.

— 1966, Miranda versus Arizona: The court ruled that police may not interrogate suspects until they have been informed of their constitutional rights and their right to have an attorney present during interrogation.

— 1971, Swann versus Charlotte-Mecklenburg County Board of Education: The court ruled unanimously that "forced busing" of students and other administrative measures are permissible to achieve school desegregation, provided that segregation exists as a result of previous state practices. (In numerous subsequent rulings, the court clarified the conditions under which "forced busing" could be required.)

— 1971, Griggs versus Duke Power Company: The court ruled unanimously that the Civil Rights Act of 1964 bars employers from requiring job applicants to provide job requirements based on race, creed and gender. Many of these court decisions were based on interpretations of civil rights legislation passed by Congress in the 1960s, including the omnibus Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Fair Housing Act of 1968.

In the 1970s, court decisions led to controversial experiments in "social engineering" — requiring, for instance, that white students be bused to black neighbourhoods or that black students be transported to white neighbourhoods to attend school if that was the only way to desegregate public schools.

In addition, the court made it legal — in some instances — to institute preferences for women and people of colour in university admissions and in hiring practices, even if such preferences adversely impacted on whites and men. The court has been cautious about "affirmative action" or "reverse discrimination" as this policy is called, but in general has found it constitutional.

The critical role of the Supreme Court in the U.S. civil rights revolution derives from its role as a co-equal branch of the federal government with the legislative and executive branches.

Since the founding of the republic, the court has asserted its prerogative to judge whether laws passed by Congress and signed by the president — as well as the statutes of state and local authority — are in accord with the fundamental principles of the U.S. Constitution, and, if they are not, to nullify them. If the court determines that laws are unconstitutional, it frequently interprets them and spouts out their application. It may order governmental bodies — or private institutions — to take action to implement legislation once it is found to be unconstitutional.

The court's power in the civil rights arena has been demonstrated partly because Congress has tended to shy away from enforcing group "rights," leaving it to the presidentially appointed Supreme Court justices — who are not elected officials — to do so. Since the late 1960s, the court has focused on school desegregation, housing discrimination and employment rights as areas of civil rights litigation. While questions of racial discrimination predominated in the 1960s, the rights of women were spotlighted in the 1970s. There have also been several important court decisions supporting the rights of individuals. The issue of homosexual rights is now beginning to have more of an impact on the U.S. legal system.

In general, Americans have accepted and supported the movement towards a society in which rights are protected for all citizens; however, some argue that the court's interpretive discovery of individual rights that may not have been spelled out in the Constitution, and, if they are not, to nullify them. If the court determines that laws are unconstitutional, it frequently interprets them and spouts out their application. It may order governmental bodies — or private institutions — to take action to implement legislation once it is found to be unconstitutional.

Following are some of the landmark decisions related to civil rights made by the Supreme Court during the past 30 years:

— 1963, Gideon versus Wainwright: The court declared that states must provide legal assistance to all defendants charged with serious crimes, regardless of their ability to pay, thus ensuring that impoverished defendants would have access to legal counsel.

— 1964, New York Times versus Sullivan: The court enlarged freedom of the press by ruling that public officials and public figures can recover damage for libelous statements only if they can prove the statements were published with the intent of actual malice.

— 1965, Griswold versus Connecticut: The court struck down a state law forbidding the use of contraceptives, ruling that such laws violate a constitutionally

— 1967, Johnson versus Transportation Agency, Santa Clara County, California: The court approved the use of affirmative action by the Santa Clara Transportation Department to promote a woman over a man who had scored slightly higher in a promotion interview. — United States Information Agency.

One flew out of the cuckoo's nest

JIMMY LAING'S book, "Fifty Years in the System," is not a comfortable read. Throughout it the reader is an uneasy voyeur to a procession of grim details. Worse, the narrator's acceptance of his awful fate is so mute, it makes you want to reach into the pages, grab him by the lapels and tell him to sort himself out.

Yet there is no doubt that of all the literary gongs handed out this year, the one Melvyn Bragg handed Jimmy Laing at the Barbican Centre in London was the most deserved. It was the Mind Book Of The Year, awarded by the charity to the work making the most significant contribution to public awareness of mental health problems.

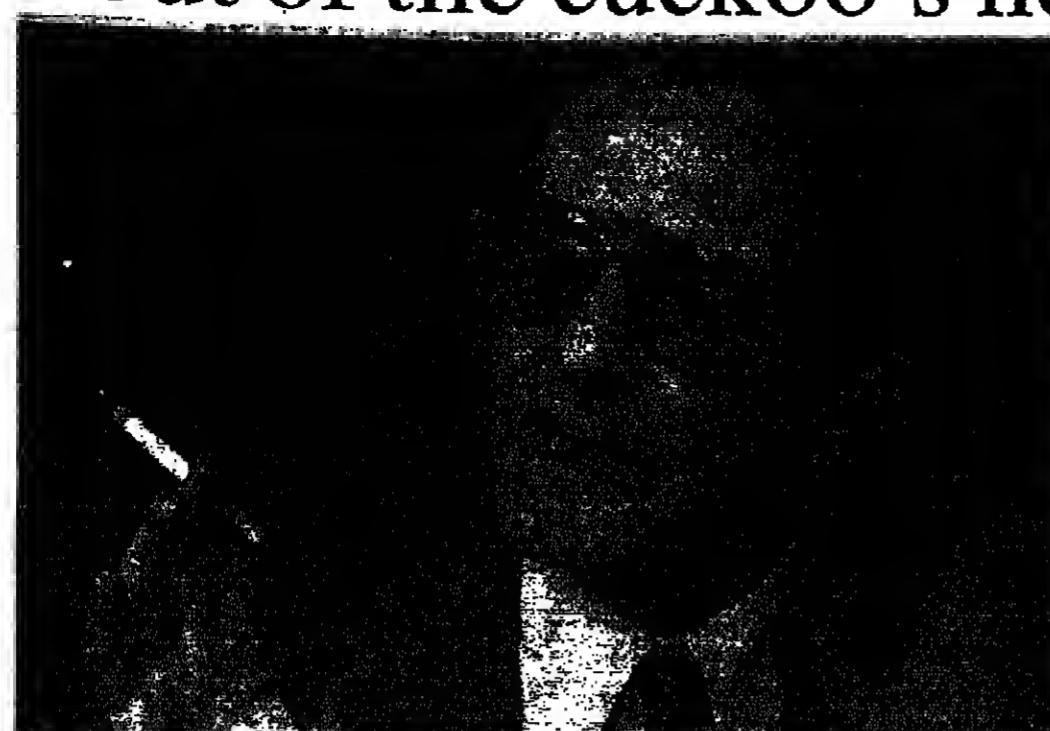
"I have been asked to say a few words and I will obey," said Jimmy as he accepted his prize. "I have been brought up to do what I am told."

While winners of the Booker or Whitbread might have spent a couple of years in a garret preparing their work, Jimmy's was longer to its research. Fifty Years in the System tells of his life in Scottish mental institutions. Like all good readers, there is a twist to his story: Jimmy was locked away for half a century without doing anything wrong; he was never properly assessed or diagnosed. He was simply abandoned.

"When I look back on my life I am reminded of a Walt Disney film," he said after the award lunch. "Absurd, quite absurd."

A drapper man at 65, with a meticulous manicure, snappy suit and polished shoes, Jimmy Laing has the look of Kenneth Williams playing a gangster. But the facial scars and missing teeth are due to accidents and lack of dentistry, not fights. He is gentle and courteous, and tells his story with candour.

It opens in Perth, just before the war. His father was in the army, his mother couldn't cope with her hyperactive son, and, with half a dozen other children to raise, she was relieved to get him off her hands. He was nine when his parents put him into



Jimmy Laing

the temples and the charge passed through you, you would leap three feet in the air. They discovered that if patients were strapped down, they would break their backs."

Much of the cruelty, however, was not physical. He was particularly appalled by the widespread use of drugs to suppress patients. "When I first went into hospital I met all sorts: popes, kings, a dozen Jesus Christs. These people went in and reality hit them smack in the face and they thought, 'Oh-oh, I'm going to get out of this. I'm going to be someone else.' And they were very happy as their new selves."

Then, in the mid-Sixties, along came tranquillisers. "It ruined their lives. No longer were they Jesus or George III, 24 hours a day they sat there gibbering. It was absolute bloody abuse."

He would abscond frequently, but always blew it. Once he hitched to Cornwall, set himself up afterwards this was because when the electrodes were attached to

and thought he had escaped. Theo, one day, he saw a policeman questioning someone near his lodgings. Wrongly assuming it was about him, he legged it back to Scotland, to the hospital, where he gave himself up.

"Each time I escaped, I hoped someone would say, 'Yes we can

care.'

He spent his youth in places so grim they made Dotheboys Hall in Nicholas Nickleby look like a Montessori nursery. Beating and sodomy were the main subjects on the curriculum. War came and went, his mother shackled up with another man, and nobody seemed to notice that Jimmy was still inside. He just drifted from special school to mental hospital.

As he grew up, his life became one long plateau of mind-numbing dullness, punctuated by moments of mind-boggling cruelty. There was the time, for instance, when he was lining up outside a hospital medical room to receive electroconvulsive therapy. The screams from inside made him panic and he ran. It took six hospital orderlies to catch him. They had difficulty in restraining him for the treatment because they weren't allowed to strap him to the bed. "I found out afterwards this was because when the electrodes were attached to

the temples and the charge passed through you, you would leap three feet in the air. They discovered that if patients were strapped down, they would break their backs."

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then put to bed and made to wear pyjamas for the next three days. Often he would be punished with a course of laxatives.

During an escape in the mid-Seventies, he went to visit his mother. It was a big mistake. Her lover, a man called Jock McNab, threw him out. So incensed was Jimmy that he went up to the first policeman he saw and announced: "I'm Jimmy Laing. I'm going to kill Jock McNab." With his mental-hospital record, it was not a wise thing for Jimmy to do. He was sent to Carslairs secure hospital, Scotland's Broadmoor, to which child molesters and serial killers are dispatched and from which absconding is not an issue. The length of his sentence was not specified.

In Carslairs, Jimmy became adept at playing the system, telling doctors what they wanted to hear, taking part in petty thefts from store rooms, buttering up the violent nurses. "In the morning, you would look at the list of nurses in charge and think, 'Ob God, it's him,'" he said. "You'd know he was the one who liked tea and toast at 10, so you made sure he got it. It worked. You could get away with murder for the rest of the day. Not literally, of course."

And in all that time, nobody ever told Jimmy what was wrong with him. All they said was that his condition was "custodial."



Carslairs, where Mr. Laing was held with killers and child molesters

mark of love that had been there perhaps 60 years, off their finger. And they took away their other personal effects and put them in envelopes. Then they would run an inventory, one nurse with a clipboard, one looking at the patient. "What colour's his socks? Brown. 'What colour's his trousers? Blue. They didn't see the pain they were causing. Among the many horrors, this was the most obscene."

Institutions took away his power of self-determination and replaced it with a routine. Scoring petty triumphs over this routine was what he lived for. Was he completely institutionalised by then? "No, no, no," he said. "I hate that word, it's a horrible word. No, I kept my sanity. I'm not quite sure how, but I had an inner determination to overcome it. God knows where it came from."

Jimmy shows no hint of self-pity. When he was asked what was the worst thing that happened to him in 50 years in hospital, he paused, then said: "It was something that I witnessed almost every day. It was when old people were admitted to the hospital. It was the practice of the nurses to take the wedding ring, a

ring of gold that had been there perhaps 60 years, off their finger. And they took away their other personal effects and put them in envelopes. Then they would run an inventory, one nurse with a clipboard, one looking at the patient. 'What colour's his socks? Brown. 'What colour's his trousers? Blue. They didn't see the pain they were causing. Among the many horrors, this was the most obscene."

Fortunately, this was not to be Jimmy's fate. Despite the sneers of the nurses ("You'll be back, son") he survived triumphantly when he was released, by a more enlightened regime, in 1987. He wrote his book on the advice of his wife, whom he married in the halfway hospital he was sent to after Carslairs. "It was a cleansing exercise," he said. "I had no idea it would be published, nor that it would touch so many people."

Now he is feted by the psychiatric establishment whose members used only to patronise him. He has recently been

Jim White

BOOK REVIEW

Fifty Years in the System by Jimmy Laing with Dermot McQuarrie. Published by Corgi, £5.99.

Slovakia — the curse of independence

By Justin Keay

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia — When Czechoslovakia split at the end of last year, most observers argued that its poor eastern third would be the biggest loser. They are being proved right with a vengeance. While the Czech Republic moves from strength to strength, becoming a flavour of the year for businessmen and tourists, Slovakia, which hoped independence would raise its prominence, has become a backwater. Little has gone right since it gained independence.

"Right now, this place is a mess: nobody knows what's going on," says David Ashcroft, an American resident in Bratislava. "You think you've got a grip on things, and then they change again — and usually for the worse."

The country's fate seems embodied by its prime minister, former boxer Vladimir Meciar, father of independence. Once seen as politically astute, he was outmanoeuvred by his Czech counterpart Vaclav Klaus during the so-called velvet divorce. Today he is adrift, languishing at around 20 per cent in opinion polls (as opposed to 60 per cent a year ago), apparently unable to define what path Slovakia should follow.

Support for independence, never strong because most Slovaks felt it was politically motivated, is now weaker than ever.

National pride received a bad knock in July when the government was forced to devalue the Slovak crown by 10 per cent against its Czech counterpart: the HZDS (Movement for a Democratic Slovakia) of a majority in parliament. Tortuous negotiations with the right-wing Slovak National Party recently broke down, reportedly due to personality clashes. Needless to say,

resignations are continuing, even at ambassadorial level; neighbouring Hungary, with whom relations are delicate, to say the least, is just one country without official Slovak representation.

Foreign policy has been shaky, especially with regard to the Czech Republic over the separation of the Czech and Slovak currencies and most recently over Prague's hardline interpretation of border agreements. And Slovakia is bickering with Hungary over an enormous dam project on the Danube which was launched by communist governments in Budapest and Prague and was to straddle both countries. Deemed

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Economy

U.S. share of world trade tops \$1 trillion

WASHINGTON — World trade hit a new record, with imports rising to \$3.8 trillion last year — a rise of 7.7 per cent over the year before, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) reported.

The fund calculated that U.S. imports and exports combined topped \$1 trillion for the first time. The total export for 1992 trade was \$1,000,000,000.

U.S. imports were at \$552.76 billion and exports at \$447.4 billion, for a deficit of \$105.2 billion. Both exports and imports were larger than those of any other country.

The figures are higher than those issued by the U.S. Department of Commerce, which put total U.S. trade at \$980.7 billion. The fund adjusts what it includes in the figures to conform with comparable results from its 178 member countries.

Japan, though it did less trade, had a surplus of \$107 billion — \$340 billion in exports and \$232.9 billion in imports.

U.S. exports again outpaced Germany's \$429 billion as they did in 1991, after falling behind in 1990 and for several years during

Germany's booming 1980s. Germany's imports amounted to \$403 billion.

The bank's annual "Direction of Trade Statistics Yearbook" was made available this week.

Globally, the increase in trade amounted to 7.7 per cent, according to the fund's "IMF Survey."

It appears twice a month. The 1992 increase was better than the four per cent of 1991, though not as high as in the years 1986-90.

The countries of the former Soviet Union and some of its allies did better than the world trend.

"The exports of this group to the rest of the world increased in 1992 by 7.7 per cent, reversing the previous year's 2.5 per cent decline," the fund's analysts said. "Imports continued to decline slightly."

Taken together, the 15 republics that used to make up the Soviet Union had a small export surplus of \$850 million. Their total international dealings were much smaller than those of Western countries.

Developing countries increased their trade — especially their imports — considerably more

than the industrial countries did, continuing a trend. In the past, these countries have usually sold more than they bought, but in 1991 they went into deficit as a group. Last year that deficit more than tripled, to \$106.7 billion.

In the western hemisphere, the rise in the deficit was even faster, from \$3.3 billion to \$27.5 billion, as countries like Argentina gave a warmer welcome to imports.

The IMF said Third World deficits were partly due to recession among the industrial countries, which bought fewer Third World products. Some Asian "tigers," such as South Korea, found their big export gains slowing. At the same time, the Third World has been increasing its appetite for goods from the industrial countries.

"In 1992, for the first time in recent years, the trade balance of the Middle East was not in surplus, recording a deficit of \$5.2 billion," the IMF Survey noted.

Demand for imports increasing as Middle Eastern countries emerged from the Gulf war crisis, and there was a slight decline in its appetite for goods from the industrial countries.

The 0.72 ratio was the lowest since August 1987 when the ratio fell to 0.71, a labour ministry official said. The ratio is unlikely to rebound soon under current stagnant economic conditions, he said.

Economists said the gloomy jobs data would continue to haunt already depressed business sentiment but noted that it takes at least six months for these lagging indicators to reflect an economic recovery.

"Although labour market conditions remain fragile, the deterioration so far is insufficient to preclude economic recovery," wrote Baring Securities economist Geoffrey Barker.

The prolonged recession is taking its toll on women in their 20s, men aged 55-60 years old and the self-employed, an official at the Management and Coordination Agency said.

But a labour shortage exists in some sectors, particularly in small

Japan jobs data mirror recession

TOKYO (Agencies) — Japan's gloomy unemployment data released Friday underlined a tough reality for hundreds of thousands of job-seekers trapped in a two-year recession.

Although July's jobless rate was 2.5 per cent, the lowest among economic powers and unchanged for three months, job offers continue to decline and show no signs of a rebound.

Friday's announcement of a higher inflation rate in August, caused by poor vegetable crops following an unusually cool summer, coincided with torrential typhoon rain. Bad weather could be a destabilizing factor for prices.

The closely monitored jobs-to-applicants ratio fell to 0.72 in July from 0.74 the previous month, meaning there were only 72 job offers for every 100 applicants.

Without adjustment for seasonal factors, the number of unemployed persons in July totalled 1.59 million, unchanged from June, but up from 1.33 million a year earlier.

Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, speaking in parliament, quickly reacted to the "tough labour climate" by promising flexible expansion of government subsidies to smaller firms so that they could retain abundant workers.

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Demand for workers is strong from restaurants, construction and pharmaceutical firms, and discount shops, which have traditionally resisted to a slump.

"We have the impression that the issue is a mismatch of jobs and job-seekers rather than a sheer imbalance of supply and demand (of labour)," said Yukio Masuda, an editor of weekly job information magazine, *Being*, published by recruit Co.

Meanwhile, consumer price inflation in the Tokyo area accelerated to two per cent in August from a year earlier, rising to the two per cent level for the first time since September last year. In July prices rose a revised 1.6 per cent.

Prices of fresh vegetables leaped 40.3 per cent from a year earlier.

One seasonal cause of concern is damage by a string of typhoons to the nation's farmland and the arrival of typhoon Vernon Friday paralysed air, land and sea traffic.

But core inflation — the consumer price index minus fresh food prices — actually fell to 1.1 per cent growth year-on-year in August from 1.4 per cent in July.

The average for China's 35 major cities was up from 21.6 per cent in June, a State Statistical Bureau spokesman said, adding national inflation stood at about 14 per cent in July.

Prices rose a massive 35.8 per cent in the southern city of Guangzhou compared with the same month last year, while Peking and Shanghai recorded increases of 24.8 per cent and 23.4 per cent respectively, according to bureau figures.

The figures were the highest since 1989 when urban inflation of 32 per cent sparked widespread public discontent and contributed to pro-democracy demonstrations, which ended with Peking's brutal military crackdown on June 4, 1989.

The central government in early July announced measures — including credit curbs — to cool the economy, which grew 13.9

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, AUGUST 28, 1993

Break loose from the mark, say Belgian economists

artificially stimulated currency. This no longer corresponds to reality. We plead for a strong franc but an autonomous one, they said.

The economists urged the Belgian government, which holds the current presidency of the EC, to launch a joint initiative with France to lower interest rates.

Germany's EC partners have been complaining that they have been forced to maintain high-growth-dampening interest rates to match those in Germany in order to prevent politically-damaging currency devaluations.

But pressure to cut interest rates has grown this month since exchange rate bands within the EMS were relaxed on Aug. 1 because of currency turbulence, giving European currencies more room to depreciate against the mark.

monetary policy".

It said in a statement that any depreciation of the franc depended on labour market reforms and the scrapping of automatic wage indexation — which were not yet in sight.

And the central bank repeated an argument used recently by French and Belgian officials — that currency depreciation would result in a loss of confidence in the franc that could mean higher long-term interest rates.

But the CUL economists maintained that the decision to link the franc to the mark, taken in May 1991, was no longer justified because the European Monetary System (EMS) of linked EC currencies was no longer anchored to the mark.

"By tracking the mark, the Belgian franc is behaving like an

China's inflation soars despite economic cooling measures

per cent in the first six months of the year.

But foreign investors in China's booming coastal cities said they were still being hit by employee demands for huge wage rises because the measures had not yet succeeded in easing inflationary pressure.

"Inflation, we notice that very badly. It goes on unabated," said Richard Dobe, general manager of U.S. venture Pfizer-China in the northeastern city of Dalian.

The government last week pledged to curb pay increases by loss-making state enterprises, which paid out 41.29 billion yuan (\$7.14 billion) in bonuses between January and June, up 38 per cent on the same period in 1992.

The government has forecast an annual inflation rate of about 13 per cent — up from 12.5 per cent in the first six months — but acknowledged this could only be achieved if money supply growth was brought under control.

Money supply grew by some 52.80 billion yuan (\$912.7 million) in the first six months of the

year and the China Daily reported Thursday some 486.3 billion yuan worth of banknotes were in circulation at the end of June.

The rise was blamed on excessive investment in new capital construction projects, which totalled 125.7 billion yuan, twice the targeted amount, in the first half of the year, according to official statistics.

The English-language daily also quoted a central People's Bank of China report as saying soaring imports between January and June brought a decline of \$520 million in China's foreign exchange reserves, which stood at \$18.8 billion at the end of June, it said.

Reserves fell because of a 23.2 per cent rise in imports, especially of raw materials, to meet the demands of rapid economic growth, the central bank said.

Exports grew only 4.4 per cent between January and June.

The China Daily said the fall in reserves would not affect China's ability to repay its foreign debt, totalling \$69.3 billion.

Heineken seeking to convince drinkers its beer is safe

AMSTERDAM (R) — Dutch brewer Heineken faces the daunting task of tracing 3.5 million bottles of beer and convincing consumers its product is still safe after finding glass splinters in some bottles.

The brewer said Thursday it would have to withdraw 17 million of its characteristic green export bottles after glass splinters were found in some during a routine quality control check. Sabotage was ruled out.

Heineken said the splinters, of various sizes, were caused by flaws in the glass used to make the export bottles and said Friday it intended to seek damage from the firm that made the glass.

Shares in the company, the world's second-largest brewer after U.S. firm Anheuser-Busch, opened 1.9 per cent or 1.4 guilders lower at 181.50 guilders but regained ground to stand down 2.10 guilders at midday in Amsterdam.

Heineken beer bottles are being withdrawn from Hong Kong, Britain, Sweden, Hungary, Israel, Finland and Austria. Heineken export beer is brewed and bottled in the Netherlands and sold in more than 150 countries worldwide.

Eighty per cent of the bottles at risk have been traced but Heineken spokeswoman Anneke Louwers said 3.5 million remain somewhere on the way from the brewer to the consumer. Only one per cent of the recalled bottles could contain splinters, most of which are invisible to the naked eye, Heineken said.

Small glass chips from a rim effect on Heineken would be less

drastic than a similar case in 1990 when French mineral water bottler Perrier had to withdraw 160 million bottles from the U.S. market after finding benzene in some products. It lost 40 per cent of its total sales between 1989 and 1991.

The splinters are unlikely to cause any injury, said a spokesman for the Academisch Medisch Centrum Hospital in Amsterdam, but larger ones could perforate the intestine.

"The splinters are difficult to detect in the bottles... but we don't want to take any risks at all of injury," Mr. Louwers said. "All that matters is getting the bottles back."

Most investment analysts agreed the scare would blow over quickly. "Sentiment (on Heineken) will be negative in the next couple of weeks but in two months everybody will forget about it and pick up the shares in line with the market," a dealer said.

The company has not said how much the withdrawal will cost, or whether its insurance will cover it completely but analysts expect second-half earnings to be affected.

"I do think it will have an effect on earnings but at this stage I can't say how much. It is still unclear whether the company has insurance for these things," said Hans Smits, analyst at CLN Ovans.

He said he thought Heineken's earnings per share would be 11.53 guilders in 1992 with total net profit at 463 million guilders (\$246 million).

However, analysts said the effect on Heineken would be less

hand to mouth," the secretary-general said in a speech before the General Assembly's 5th committee on financial matters.

"There is nothing new about that. But to... y the situation is unpredictable and intolerable."

Unless substantial payments are made within 30 days, he said, the United Nations will be unable to undertake any new financial commitments and existing operations will be in jeopardy.

Dr. Boutros-Ghali said the situation has gone "from bad to worse" because virtually all 188 U.N. members are in arrears in payments for the regular budget and peacekeeping operations.

The organisation has monthly expenditures of \$310 million, and reserved are totally depleted.

"As of today," he said, "cash in hand will cover requirements only through the first week of September, without any further payments to troop contributors."

The secretary-general said the secretariat already has instituted strict economies, and so he announced "severe" but unspecified reductions in official travel and the use of consultants.

He also ordered sharp reductions in meeting hours and conference services, including simultaneous translation, verbatim and summary records, and television and audio broadcast.

For example, he said, weekday meetings of the Security Council will not have services after 6 p.m. and no meetings of the council will be held on weekends, except in emergencies.

If contributions are not paid by the end of the year, he said, these measures will continue and more drastic ones will be added.

The Cambodian issue involved minivans ordered from Japan's Mitsubishi and Toyota auto firms for use by 22,000 peacekeepers monitoring May elections in the war-torn nation.

The U.N. Office of Administration and Management said that 705 vans were ordered from Mitsubishi Corp. at a cost of \$8,800 each, or \$6.2 million. Other trucks were ordered from Toyota.

It was not known why so many vehicles were ordered, but the office said that U.N. personnel may have overestimated the extent of territory they would be

required to monitor.

Melissa Wells, undersecretary-general for administration and management, told a news conference that U.N. officials immediately asked the manufacturer to change the order when they realised their mistake, but were held to the original contract.

Dr. Boutros-Ghali said an investigation found no improprieties and that the supplier of the minibuses "stubbornly refused to cooperate."

The United States pays about one-quarter of the annual budget of more than \$1 billion and pays about 30 per cent of all peacekeeping costs. As of July 15, the U.S. government owed \$517 million to the regular budget and \$300 million to peacekeeping, according to U.N. figures.

were used in U.N. work in other countries or put in storage, Dr. Boutros-Ghali's report said.

The United States and some other countries have threatened to withhold their dues unless the United Nations cracks down on waste, fraud and mismanagement.

Dr. Boutros-Ghali said in response to this pressure, Dr. Boutros-Ghali Tuesday announced the appointment of an Egyptian accountant and former U.N. auditor to investigate.

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Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt 'n' Jeff

Sports

Glory dispensed, athletes compete for big money

BERLIN (AP) — In Stuttgart last week, they ran, jumped and hurled for the glory. This week in Berlin, it's for cash.

In eight of the 19 events at Stuttgart's International Studium FEST (ISTAF) meet, all three medalists from the World Championships will be competing. In all, 27 world champions are entered.

More than \$300,000 in appearance money helped secure the stars, deputy meet director Peter Stastny said Thursday, including women's heptathlon champ Jackie Joyner-Kersee and sprint queen Merlene Ottey after 11-hour negotiations.

Meet organizers are getting less uncomfortable about the subject.

"Track and field is more and more, professionalizing itself," Stastny said. Now, appearance money is only where the incentives begin.

The 200-metre dash winner in Stuttgart, one of eight athletes still in the running for all or some of 20 one-kilogramme (2.2-pound) gold bars. The bars, worth about \$25,000, are the prize for winning the same event in the golden four series of meets — Oslo, Zurich, Berlin and Brussels Sept. 3.

Ottey can still share in the jackpot having won the 100 metres at both Oslo and Zurich.

"I think if there's a lot on the

line — like gold bars or gold medals — people tend to run faster," he said.

Other athletes with a shot at the gold bars are Mike Powell in the long jump, fellow American Michael Johnson in the 400 metres, Germany's Werner Günther in the shot put and Heike Drechsler in the women's long jump.

Also with a chance are Maria Mutola of Mozambique in the women's 800-metre run and Trine Hattestad of Norway in the women's javelin.

Burnett is nursing a slight cold and is a bit worried about Berlin's cooler climate.

But he won't have to worry about teammate Carl Lewis, who says he is not fully recovered from a February auto accident and flew home after a disappointing fourth-place finish in 100 at Stuttgart.

Another American who won't be running is Gail Devers, who raced to two gold medals in Stuttgart — in the 100 dash and 100 hurdles.

"She's taking it easy," Stastny said. "There were negotiations (over appearance money) but in the end it was not a matter of money." Meet director Rudi Thiel said Thursday that Devers had decided to end her outdoor season.

Township kids mingle with NBA giants

SOWETO (AP) — Some worn tank tops and sneakers, while others scrambled across the basketball court in long pants and street shoes.

They dribbled the ball off their feet, off their heads, off any part of the body that got in the way as they desperately raced back and forth.

In the middle, three giants towered over the controlled mayhem, barking instructions and leaping to help out a particularly needy player.

For the 200 or so teen-agers, most of them from this sprawling black township, it was a learning session — big time — from past and present National Basketball Association players under a programme designed to teach the sport and the game of life.

Bob McAdoo and Alex English, two of the league's all-time greats, along with Zairean-born Alonzo Mourning, stressed ball-handling, hard work and dedication in the one-day seminar at a Soweto Gymnasium.

The message appeared to get through.

"I'm learning that to be a champion, it takes hard work," said Khotso Nketele, 17, who plays in a township basketball programme. "It's very important to me. It takes me off the streets."

That's music to the ears of NBA commissioner David Stern, who watched from the sideline on his first-ever visit to Africa.

"We're really here just to encourage the growth of the sport and the messages that come with it," Stern said of the NBA's fiftieth tour.

It is part of a programme called Teamwork-South Africa developed at Northeastern University in the United States with the help of the NBA and South Africa's National Olympics Committee. The goal is to use sports to improve racial understanding and give kids an alternative to street life.

Their problems increased this week when goalkeeper and penalty-taker Jose Luis Chilavert, famous at jeers from the Paraguayan crowd against Colombia, announced his intention of abandoning the national team.

Brazil may be without captain Rai, who, in any case, has been badly off form. Palhinha will replace Rai, who has complained of pains in his leg, if the Paris St. German player does not recover.

Bolivia are at full strength with midfielder Julio Cesar Baldessari returning after a one-match suspension.

Teams (probable):

Brazil — Taffarel, Jorginho, Ricardo Rocha, Ricardo Gomes, Branco, Mauro Silva, Dunga, Rai, Zinho, Bebeto, Muller.

Paraguay — Celso Guerrero, Andres Duarte, Catalino Riverola, Celso Ayala, Silvio Suarez, Estanislao Straway, Carlos Gamarras, Roberto Acuna, Gabriel Gonzalez, Alfredo Mendoza, Luiz Alberto Mozzan.

Bolivia: Carlos Trucco, Miguel Rimbala, Marco Sandy, Gustavo Quinteros, Luis Cristaldo, Milton

Lucky draw for Courier at U.S. Open

NEW YORK (Agencies) — The luck of the draw was with world number one Jim Courier Thursday.

The draw for the U.S. Open tennis championships was held Thursday and the ceremony left the top seed in the easier half of the men's competition with a smooth road to the quarter-finals, save for a potentially dangerous third-round bump.

Courier, who reached the final of all three Grand Slams this year, winning the Australian Open, drew 116th-ranked Spanishman Fabrice Santoro, but found himself in the half of the draw stacked with Agassi, the always dangerous Michael Chang, defending champion Stevan Edberg and former Wimbledon winner Michael Stich of Germany.

The American, who regained the top ranking this week after winning the U.S. hardcourts in Indianapolis, will face a qualifier in the second round before possibly being tested by 28th-ranked compatriot Maliva Washington in the third.

Courier is slotted to face 15th-seeded Frenchman Cedric Pioline in the round of 16, unless former champion Mats Wilander, a wildcard entry attempting a comeback, manages to get that far.

His likely quarter-final opponent will be either 10th-seeded Dutchman Richard Krajicek or eighth seed Andrei Medvedev of

Ukraine.

In sharp contrast, second-seeded Wimbledon champion Pete Sampras will almost surely have 16th-seed Andre Agassi awaiting him in the round of 16.

None of the other top contenders will come face to face so early.

Sampras, last year's runner-up, opens against 56th-ranked Frenchman Fabrice Santoro, but found himself in the half of the draw stacked with Agassi, the always dangerous Michael Chang, defending champion Stevan Edberg and former Wimbledon winner Michael Stich of Germany.

If form holds the most compelling women's quarter-finals pit Graf against fifth seed Gabriela Sabatini in a rematch of the 1988 and 1990 finals and 36-year-old four-time winner Martina Navratilova against seventh seed Jennifer Capriati, looking for her first Grand Slam title at 17.

Sanchez, in the same half of the draw as Capriati and Navratilova, is slated to meet sixth-seeded American Mary Joe Fernandez in the quarters.

Wimbledon runner-up Jana Novotna and fourth-seeded Spanish Conchita Martinez are potential quarter-final opponents in Graf's half of the draw.

Lendl, Taxizat advance

In Schenectady, New York, top seeds Ivan Lendl and Nathalie Tauziat advanced to the quarter-finals of the \$350,000

OTB International Open tennis tournament with second-round victories Thursday.

Lendl beat Joren Renzenbrink of Germany 6-3, 6-3 while the Frenchwoman defeated Shi-Ting Wang of Taiwan 1-6, 6-4, 6-2.

In Friday's quarter-finals, Lendl will face Tomas Enqvist of Sweden, who beat Germany's Bernd Karbacher in a two hour, 58 minute battle to boiling heat and humidity.

Sixth seed Carlos Costa of Spain beat Dutchman Paul Haarhuis 6-2, 7-5 in another men's second-round match. Costa will next face Australian Richard Fromberg, who beat Danish qualifier Kenneth Carlsen 7-5, 6-3.

On the women's side, Ukrainian Natalia Medvedeva upset second seed Sabine Hack of Germany 4-6, 6-1, 6-2 while third seed Judith Wiesner of Austria easily defeated Emanuel Zardo of Switzerland 6-1, 6-1.

Medvedeva will face up-and-coming 18-year-old Swede Asa Carsson Friday.

Ivanisevic routs Steeb

In Commack, N.Y., Goran Ivanisevic, undeterred by wilting heat and humidity, used a powerful serve Thursday to rout Carsten Steeb.

Ewe Steeb 6-2, 6-1 and reach the quarterfinals of the \$300,000 Hamlet Cup.

With a court-side thermometer said to register a reading of 129 degrees (53.9 C), Ivanisevic played his "best tennis in a month" in advancing to the quarters with Marc Rosset of Switzerland and Luis Matar of Brazil.

Rosset, last year's Olympic gold medalist, had 10 aces in beating Arnaud Boetsch of France 4-6, 6-4, 6-2. Matar downed Andrei Chesnokov of Russia 6-4, 6-4.

The weather had no effect on me," said Rosset, who was playing Boetsch for the first time on the tour. "I don't tire in heat. The warmer it is, the better it is for me. I find I play slower and concentrate more in hot weather."

In a night match, No. 4 seed Michael Stich played Cedric Pioline.

Ivanisevic, the No. 7 seed, whipped 13 aces past Steeb. He broke the German in the fourth and eighth games of the first set and rushed ahead 5-0 in the second before winning in 59 minutes.

"I'm playing much better than a month ago because I'm serving much better, especially when I need to," Ivanisevic said.

World Cup qualifiers

Bolivians have chance to silence detractors

Argentina, Paraguay clash Sunday

MEIGAR, Carlos Borja, Marco Etcheverry, Julio Cesar Baldiaviso, Erwin Sanchez, William Ramallo.

In Buenos Aires, Argentina face Paraguay in a World Cup qualifier Sunday but the long-awaited renewal of the battle between the two team captains will not take place.

Paraguayan captain and striker Roberto Cabanas is suspended from the South America Group A match after receiving his second yellow card in last week's 1-1 draw with Colombia.

That means he will not be able to continue his feud with Argentinian captain and central defender Oscar Ruggeri.

The team, which has struck fear into the likes of Brazil and Uruguay in their own stadium 3,700 metres above sea level, will be transformed into a meek, harmless outfit when they come down to play at sea level, they say.

Four of Bolivia's games have been in La Paz and their only away match, a 7-1 win over Venezuela, was against a team which had not won a game since 1989.

Sunday should provide the answer to a question which is confounding everyone in South American soccer.

The Brazilians, who suffered their first-ever defeat in a World Cup qualifier in La Paz, have been among Bolivia's doubters and are promising revenge.

"Their principle weapon is the altitude," said Brazil midfielder Mauro Silva. "We suffered a lot of problems in La Paz and Sunday we're not going to let them breath."

But Bolivia's Spanish coach Xavier Askarorta was defiant.

"We will show the world that our results are the fruits of a lot of work," he said.

Bolivia are four points ahead of second-placed Brazil, who desperately need a win. The top two teams in the five-team group qualify for the World Cup finals in the United States.

Brazil may be without captain Rai, who, in any case, has been badly off form. Palhinha will replace Rai, who has complained of pains in his leg, if the Paris St. German player does not recover.

Bolivia are at full strength with midfielder Julio Cesar Baldessari returning after a one-match suspension.

Teams (probable):

Brazil — Taffarel, Jorginho, Ricardo Rocha, Ricardo Gomes, Branco, Mauro Silva, Dunga, Rai, Zinho, Bebeto, Muller.

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AC Milan starts bid for rare 3rd consecutive title

MILAN (AP) — AC Milan wants a rare third straight Italian League crown. But for the first time in six years, it will begin the season without its Dutch trio.

The Italian season kicks off Sunday, a week earlier than usual and the most austere in years following an economic recession that has reduced the purchases of foreign stars.

The August start is so the league can complete the 34-round schedule for the 1994-95 season well before the 1994 World Cup final.

Although the games will begin early, it won't be as early as the league would like. All matches will kick off 30 minutes late in the opening round — at 4:30 p.m. (1430 GMT) — because of a players association protest over layoffs of several of their colleagues in the third division.

Milan, which hopes to remain competitive in the Champions Cup, Italian Cup and Italian League, will debut at newly promoted Lecco.

Having transferred Ruud Gullit to Sampdoria and Frank Rijkaard to Ajax of Amsterdam, the red and black have retained only Marco Van Basten of their once-formidable Dutch front. But Van Basten is still recovering from ankle surgery while Italian forward Giao Luigi Lentini and newly acquired defender Christian Panucci have joined him on the injured list.

That has forced Fabio Capello to reshuffle his lineup with French striker Jean Pierre Papin, Italian forward Marco Simone, Croat Zvonimir Boban, Dane Brian Laudrup, Romanian forward Florin Raducioiu and Montenegrin Dejan Savicevic.

A reshuffled lineup is expected to be a hindrance to an Italian "three-peat" but not as much as history. Only five teams have won three consecutive titles and none since Torino won five from 1943-1949. The league didn't play in 1944 and 1945.

In other games Sunday, Cagliari is in Bergamo to face Atalanta, AS Roma travels to Genoa, promoted Reggiana plays at Internazionale, Cremonese faces Juventus in Turin, Sampdoria goes to play Napoli, Torino is at

promoted Piacenza, Parma faces Udinese, and Foggia goes to Rome to play Lazio.

Milan, which dominated last season despite a second-half slump, is expected to face tougher challenges this year from cross-town rival Internazionale and European Cup Winners Cup champion Parma.

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China threatens to quit missile pact

PEKING (Agencies) — China threw into doubt Friday U.S.-led efforts to control sales of long-range missiles, threatening to withdraw its support for such restrictions in response to newly imposed U.S. trade sanctions.

Vice Foreign Minister Liu Huajun called in U.S. Ambassador to China Stapleton Roy to convey Peking's decision concerning the missile technology control regime (MTCR) and to lodge a strong protest, over Washington's decision to impose sanctions, the official Xinhua news agency said.

"The Chinese government has been left with no alternatives but to reconsider its commitment to the MTCR," Mr. Liu said. "The U.S. government shall be held fully responsible for all the consequences arising there from."

Washington announced the sanctions Wednesday, accusing China of violating the MTCR by selling technology for its M-11 missiles to Pakistan. Both Peking and Islamabad have repeatedly rejected the allegation.

In a scathing attack, Mr. Liu warned the U.S. move "puts Sino-U.S. relations in serious jeopardy."

"This naked hegemonic act has brutally violated the basic norms governing international relations," he said. "This is most unreasonable and totally unacceptable to the Chinese side."

China first agreed to abide by the MTCR guidelines and parameters in February 1992, but only after Washington agreed to remove sanctions nearly identical to the ones it imposed Wednesday.

If Peking went ahead with the threat to withdraw support for the MTCR, it would be a major blow for international efforts to limit missile proliferation, Western diplomats said. U.S. President Bill Clinton has made an end to sales of long-range missiles one of his administration's top priorities.

But the diplomats expressed some scepticism over Peking's threat, pointing out that it would not only be damaging to its own security interests, but also risk additional retaliation from Washington at a time when China's preferential trade status is at

risk of being revoked.

"The Chinese often have a hark much bigger than their bite," one said.

The renewed sanctions barred Chinese institutions, notably the Defence Ministry and Space Research Programme, from buying satellites and satellite technology, including avionics, flight control systems and some computer and software equipment.

But the two-year ban would only affect new sales, not anything for which export licenses have been granted. It will affect an estimated \$400 million to \$500 million in U.S. exports annually.

Ironically, a major victim of the ban is Los Angeles-based Hughes Aircraft Co., which has discussed selling 10 satellites to China and was supposed to put two into orbit in the next two years.

A loophole for an all-out escalation of tension existed, observers said, noting that like predecessor George Bush, Mr. Clinton could sign a special waiver that would allow the sales and launches to go ahead.

The M-11 missiles have a range of 480 kilometres and can be equipped with nuclear warheads.

The MTCR bars sales of missiles with a range of more than 300 kilometres or a payload of more than 500 kilograms.

The Chinese vice minister reiterated Peking's claim that it had abided by the MTCR guidelines, arguing that the "large body of evidence" gathered by U.S. intelligence was inaccurate.

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PALESTINIAN PROTEST: Palestinian women and children Friday protest outside the Bristol Hotel in Beirut where Arab ministers were meeting to discuss coordination in the Middle East peace process (see page 1). The protesters were demanding the reinstatement of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) welfare payments to Palestinian refugee families in Lebanon (AFP photo)

Sheikh, others enter not guilty pleas in bombing and blast plot

Combined agency dispatches

NEW YORK — Egyptian Muslim cleric pleaded innocent Thursday to charges he led a gang that bombed the World Trade Centre and plotted to assassinate President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and carry out other violence.

Fourteen co-defendants entered the same plea during a hearing at federal court in Manhattan on Thursday, six months after the Feb. 26 World Trade Centre bombing.

Streets outside were lined with police and a police helicopter buzzed over the courthouse, in an indication of the fear that other members of the cell remain free.

"Whether or not we've identified the major players, obviously there's a concern that there may be others out there that we don't know about," said Matthew Fishbein, chief assistant U.S. attorney.

The sheikh was charged Wednesday with orchestrating a network that bombed the World Trade Centre, killed militant Rabbi Meir Kahane and plotted other bombings, kidnappings and assassinations, including that of Mr. Mubarak.

The suspects walked into the courtroom handcuffed and in single file. Sheikh Abdul Rahman, wearing sunglasses and allowed to dress in a red-and-white hat and long blue robe instead of prison garb, was the last to enter.

One spoke during the hearing; some greeted family members in the court by saying "peace be with you" in Arabic.

U.S. District Court Judge Michael B. Mukasey said there may have to be at least two separate trials because there are

more than 10 defendants and likely to be more than four months of testimony.

Defence lawyer Ron Kuby told the judge the evidence will prove "this conspiracy was a government conspiracy," a setup by a government informant who even taped his conversations with investigators.

The indictment returned Wednesday charged the suspects with plotting a "war of urban terrorism" against the United States.

It also charged Al Sayyid Nosair with the murder of Rabbi Kahane, although Nosair was acquitted of state charges in the Nov. 5, 1990 slaying.

And it detailed plans to attack U.S. military installations, murder federal agents and seize hostages as bargaining chips to gain the release of jailed conspirators.

U.S. missions abroad were told to review their security measures following the indictment.

But defence lawyers say that the only dangerous acts by the group came from the government's own informant.

The man, Enad Salem, is expected to be a key witness for the government.

But he will face tough cross-examination from defence lawyers, who will likely point to his shadowy past and claims that he has had ties to Egyptian intelligence, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the Soviet KGB.

At the time the plot was disclosed, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) made much of the fact that some of the defendants were mixing a bomb to blow up the United Nations.

But the government's own charges admit that Mr. Salem was not responsible for preparing the explosives.

In addition, prosecutors will be hard-pressed to explain why Mr. Salem started giving them in-

formation in late 1991 yet they failed to stop the trade centre bombing last February in which six people died and over 1,000 were injured.

Michael Warren, attorney for Mr. Nosair, said Mr. Salem was "despicable" and said he was "not a credible witness."

The government has disclosed that in addition to taping his conversations with the defendants, Mr. Salem recorded his talks with FBI agents.

Former government officials say those tapes could prove to be an embarrassment and support defence allegations that Mr. Salem was trying to entrap the accused and was actually the instigator in the plots.

The government has leaked some of the conversations between Mr. Salem and some of the defendants showing the informant taking an active role in the plots.

"That evidence when shown and when displayed is going to show that this is a government conspiracy from beginning to end," Attorney Kuby said after the court hearing.

"It was the government that sent in its informer, to go out and to create this mythical Islamic conspiracy that we see here today," he said.

The indictment charges the group with planning to blow up the two tunnels and one bridge that span the Hudson River and bomb unidentified military installations.

But the defence lawyers contend the plans were just "loose talk" and that there is no evidence that they took concrete steps to carry out such plots.

The charges against Sheikh Abdul Rahman and Mr. Nosair had been expected for months amid reports that U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno was reluctant to name the two, fearing the allegations could not be proved.

Israel Radio said on Sunday that Palestinians who were either born outside the territories or were abroad when Israel invaded in 1967 but arrived between 1990 and 1992 on the temporary visitor permits could stay with their husbands, wives or parents.

Khaddam resolves Lebanese crisis

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam made an urgent trip to Lebanon Friday and then announced that a government crisis had been averted and Prime Minister Rafik Hariri would remain in office.

"The (Lebanese) government is staying. It's a united bloc," Mr. Khaddam told reporters at the end of his five-hour visit.

Syria is the undisputed power broker in neighbouring Lebanon, and Mr. Khaddam is Syria's top expert on Lebanese affairs.

Lebanese government officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Mr. Khaddam's intervention headed off the possible collapse of Mr. Hariri's half-Christian, half-Muslim cabinet.

Mr. Khaddam acted swiftly to settle the differences. He met with Mr. Hariri after holding separate talks with Lebanese President Elias Hrawi, a Syrian-backed Maronite Catholic, and Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, a Shiite Muslim.

Mr. Khaddam met later with both Mr. Hariri and Mr. Hrawi, emerging afterwards to announce that the undisclosed problems had been settled.

Mr. Hariri, a key ally of Syria, told reporters that Mr. Hariri had not tendered his resignation, but complained of "shakiness" among government members.

Mr. Hariri has made major advances in curbing official corruption and improved security conditions during his 10 months in office.

He shunted aside Lebanon's old guard leaders, who had dominated politics for decades, and brought in Western-educated technocrats to oversee Lebanon's reconstruction and reunification following the end of the 1975-90 civil war.

Mr. Hariri, 50, has been complaining that he is not getting the support he expects from some of his cabinet ministers and that his reconstruction efforts are being undermined.

He refused to comment on media reports he threatened to resign at a cabinet session Thursday night.

The independent Al Nahar daily said Mr. Hariri told the meeting that he prefers to stand down rather than fail in his mandate to lift Lebanon from the wreckage of the civil war.

The prestigious daily quoted unnamed Hariri aides as saying that his main condition for staying on was "a satisfactory degree of harmony" in the government to ensure that we will triumph together rather than fail one after another at Lebanon's expense."

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Column 8

British tourist forgets his wife at the border

INNSBRUCK, Austria (AFP) — A British tourist drove through Austria Tuesday before noticing that he had left his wife behind at the Brenner Pass on the Italian-Austrian border, Austrian customs officials said. One of the border officials said "motorists quite often forget a member of their family when they're towing a caravan," but added that he'd never heard of such absent-mindedness in couple driving a Sedan car.

After crossing the border between Italy and Austria, the British tourist stopped to use the toilet facilities while his wife was asleep on the tilted passenger seat. Thinking she was still there the man drove off, not realizing that in his absence she had got out of the car to use the toilet.

She told customs officials of the route she was taking so the officials warned their colleagues at the Vils border post between Austria and Germany, 150 kilometers (90 miles) further on, who told the absent-minded tourist that his wife was waiting for him at the Brenner Pass. The man immediately turned back to fetch her.

Mother Teresa arrives home

CALCUTTA (R) — Mother Teresa arrived back at her Calcutta headquarters Friday after a week in hospital with a bout of Malaria complicated by a heart condition. The Nobel Prize-winner, who celebrated her 83rd birthday in a New Delhi hospital Thursday, was discharged Friday morning and flown back to Calcutta aboard a special plane.

Single punch gets Filipina 10-year jail term

CEBU, Philippines (R) — A woman who killed a man with a single punch has been jailed for 10 years, a Philippine court official said Friday. Judge Leonardo Canares Thursday sentenced Jessica Arenasa to 10 years in prison for killing a co-worker in Cebu province in February last year.

Mr. Canares said the radio said state prosecutors gave the number involved in reply to petition before Israel's high court of justice demanding family reunifications.

Mr. Hammad repeated Jordan's demand for Israel to repatriate more Palestinians and their families barred from returning to the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Jordanian Interior Ministry figures show that since mid-1983, more than 54,000 Palestinians from the occupied territories have been unable to return after losing residence rights for failing to return within a period of three years.

The figure excludes wives and children registered on each residence — taking the total to over 90,000 individuals.

Jordan has so far unsuccessfully campaigned for their return as a goodwill gesture to support the peace process.

Most of the affected Palestinians were stranded in Jordan or have gone to other Arab states and the West.

Aman allows residents of the territories, most of whom have family in Jordan, to stay for up to a year and will usually renew permits if their Israeli travel documents are valid.

It has turned a blind eye to those unable to return, but is warning other Palestinians not to exceed their legal stay.

LONDON (AP) — Two women who reportedly left their seven children home alone while they took a vacation were cooperating with investigators, but their children remained in foster care. The Surrey County Social Services Department said that the two women, who share a home in Dorking, 20 miles (30 km) south of London, left last weekend without their children. The children were taken into care after a neighbour notified social workers. However, Zoe Davidson, 16-year-old neighbour, said that she and her sister were caring the children, aged 10 months to 14 years. Miss Davidson contended that authorities had been contacted by neighbours who believed that the mothers were lesbians. One of the women has four children: two boys aged 12 and 8, and two girls, one 7 years and 10 months old respectively. The other woman has a 14-year-old girl and two boys aged 11 and 4. Both women were interviewed by police but were not arrested. The Surrey County Council obtained a court order Thursday to prevent the publication of any details which would identify the children or the people now caring for them. Who have taken them into foster care. The order also barred reporters from attempting to interview the children, the foster parents or staff and pupils and teachers at schools attended by the children.

Gag order in 'home alone' case; mothers not charged

Tayseer Khaled, the DFLP representative on the Executive Committee, opened the meeting Thursday with a call for the resignation of all senior PLO officials involved or directing Palestinian participation in the peace talks.

"They appoint each other to investigate each other instead of appointing independent people or groups. Accountants or bankers should be looking into the financial issues not Executive Committee members," said Mr. Aruri.

"They appoint each other to investigate each other instead of appointing independent people or groups. Accountants or bankers should be looking into the financial issues not Executive Committee members," said Mr. Aruri.

Mr. Aruri questioned unpublished reports that the PLO would rejoin the negotiating team to Washington after a two-round absence.

Accord on Gaza-Jericho, but difference on goals

Jericho that will be the end of that and no further withdrawal will ever take place," said Ahmad Al Jamal, the Jordan representative of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).

While most Palestinian parties have condemned the Gaza-Jericho option as an "unrealistic" venture, PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo welcomed Mr. Peres' statements and said that while the PLO was seeking eventual statehood an interim period for self-rule was "acceptable" to the PLO.

Many members of the PLO Executive Committee and Palestinian peace negotiators differed with Mr. Abed Rabbo.

"We should not be talking about autonomy at all. We should insist on statehood from day one if we wish that to be our goal," Abdul Rahim Mallooh, PLO Executive Committee member for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said Friday.

"Once we accept Gaza and

Togo regime, rivals spar over 15 deaths

LOME (Agencies) — Togo's government and the main opposition, which boycotted this week's presidential elections, accused each other on Friday of killing 15 militants in a general village.

The government said the militants who died in the village of Agbandi, 60 kilometres south of the central town of Sokode, had been poisoned with food delivered to them in prison by members of the opposition Committee for Renewal (CAR).

But the opposition blamed security forces and CAR leader Yawovi Agboyibo said the accusations were part of a plot by strong-arm President Gnassingbe Eyadema and Prime Minister Joseph Kokou Koffigoh to incriminate him.

"These are reprisals for the boycott of the election," Mr. Agboyibo said. "How can you possibly say people from CAR killed their own supporters? This is a prelude to arresting me."

Mr. Eyadema, who mounted Africa's first successful post-independence military coup in

1963, won Wednesday's disputed presidential elections with up to 80 per cent of the vote in some places, but the boycott kept turnout low.

A government statement said security forces had arrested 40 people on Thursday for attacking electoral officials and destroying voting equipment the day before in Agbandi.

They were taken to Blitta prison where 15 died during the night after eating food brought by CAR members, it said.

"During the evening, CAR activists asked for the detainees brought them food. This food was probably poisoned," the statement said.

The statement gave no indication of why the opposition might want to poison its own members.